UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/49/L.8
4 November 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-ninth session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 89

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Algeria*: draft resolution

Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its second session

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, in which it endorsed the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Recalling also its resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992 on institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Reaffirming the need for a balanced and integrated approach to environment and development issues, and the new global partnership for sustainable development initiated at the Conference,

Having considered the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its second session, 1/ which was held in New York from 16 to 27 May 1994,

1. Notes the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its second session and the recommendations contained therein;

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

1/ E/1994/33.

2. Welcomes the communications regarding the implementation of Agenda 21 2/ provided on a voluntary basis by a number of Governments and organizations at the second session of the Commission;

3. Expresses its deep concern at the insufficient progress made towards the provision of new and additional financial resources and the transfer of environmentally sound technology to developing countries on concessional and preferential terms for the implementation of Agenda 21, and in that context reiterates its concern that official development assistance has decreased by 10 per cent since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

4. Stresses the critical need for and importance of the provision of means of implementation to developing countries, especially those relating to new and additional financial resources and the transfer of environmentally sound technology to developing countries on concessional and preferential terms, in order to assist them in implementing Agenda 21 and other decisions of the Conference;

5. Calls upon the Commission on Sustainable Development, as the relevant forum, to promote the adoption of urgent steps to implement the chapters of Agenda 21 related to the crucial issue of unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, particularly in the developed countries, which not only constitute the major cause of the continued global environmental deterioration but also aggravate poverty and imbalances;

6. Notes the work done so far by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade/World Trade Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and the United Nations Environment Programme in the fields of trade, environment and sustainable development, underlines the need to ensure close cooperation and complementarity of work with the Commission on Sustainable Development, and recommends that the Commission, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Environment Programme be appropriately represented at the Committee on Trade and Environment of the World Trade Organization;

7. Encourages, in addition to the participation of ministers of environment in the sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the participation of ministers responsible for development planning, finance and trade in the high-level meetings of the Commission;

8. Calls upon the Commission on Sustainable Development, in accordance with chapter 38 of Agenda 21, to develop close and clear relationships with other international organizations and entities, such as the conferences of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 3/ the

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2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

3/ A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

Convention on Biological Diversity, 4/ and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, 5/ and the Global Environment Facility in order to increase its effectiveness in monitoring the implementation of Agenda 21 and other decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

9. Calls upon the international financial institutions and other international organizations to significantly increase their financial resources and technical support for developing countries, and to improve their delivery systems in order to more effectively and demonstrably implement Agenda 21;

10. Recommends that the members of the international financial institutions take the necessary steps, through their respective governing bodies, to enable their programmes and activities to better reflect Agenda 21 in order to respond to the needs of developing countries;

11. Endorses the recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development to draw up a matrix of policy options and financial instruments and mechanisms that would facilitate the formulation of optimal financing strategies for each of the sectoral clusters under review;

12. Calls upon the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development, in carrying out its mandate, to ensure that there is more transparency in its work by encouraging a more direct involvement of the members of the Board, in their expert capacity, in the informal meetings held during the Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as to arrange briefing sessions open to all interested parties to highlight the outcome of its meetings;

13. Stresses the need to ensure balanced, transparent and coherent inter-sessional processes that are participatory in nature in order to facilitate the work of the ad hoc working groups of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

14. Notes that major groups could play an important role in the implementation of Agenda 21, and encourages them to contribute to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all members of the international community, relevant intergovernmental organizations, agencies, programmes and bodies both within and outside the United Nations system, and relevant non-governmental organizations.

4/ See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institutions Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

5/ A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.